

Education Committee

New Winter/Spring Classes Begin

The Education Committee will offer three classes in the upcoming Winter/Spring semester. The classes will begin the first week of February and run ten weeks, ending just before Passover in April. Classes will meet at the shul on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew:

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm

In response to many requests, Sha'ar Zahav will offer a class in basic Hebrew reading. Starting February 3, "Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew" is a basic reading skills class, intended for those with no previous knowledge of Hebrew and those who learned to read Hebrew many years ago but would like to start again. The text for the class will be *Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew*, a book written especially for adults. Students can expect some "homework." At the end of the term, students will be able to read any passage found in the prayer book.

Torah Study: Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 pm

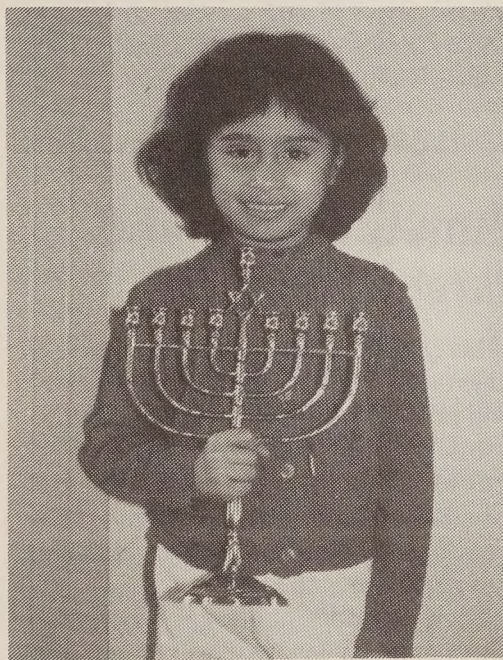
Following Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew will be the continuing session of Rabbi Kahn's popular Torah Study Class. This session will focus on the Book of Numbers. Biblical text will be examined (in English) in the light of ancient and modern commentators. Some of the topics Numbers brings up are: crime and punishment, the boundaries of authority, revolution, and the meaning of miracles. Each weekly session will focus on a particular topic or theme suggested by the Torah's text. New participants are invited to join along with continuing members for a lively and stimulating discussion.

Living Jewishly: Facts and Feelings:

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

Leslie Bergson will lead a class in "Living Jewishly: Facts and Feelings" which will examine through lecture and discussion the elements that go into leading a Jewish life: Shabbat, Jewish values, holiday celebrations, life cycle events and more. The first class will be held on February 4.

See the enclosed form for registration and fees. For further information, please contact Bill Goldstein (793-4283).



I got my menorah at the Sha'ar Zahav Book Fair (and Chanukah gift shop).

Lecture Series

Waldheim and European Anti-Semitism

The second lecture of the season at Sha'ar Zahav will be delivered by Fred Rosenbaum, founder and director of Lehrhaus Judaica, on Sunday, January 11, at 4 pm at the shul. He will present information garnered during his travels in 1986.

In particular, during December Rosenbaum visited Austria to investigate further the election of Kurt Waldheim and the attitudes that permitted his being elected President of Austria.

Twelve years ago, Rosenbaum founded Lehrhaus Judaica, which offers a broad range of courses of Jewish study at Berkeley, Stanford and San Francisco State Hillel. Last summer, he taught a course on Nazi criminals at Berkeley Hillel.

The Education Committee invites both Sha'ar Zahav members and the general public to attend this lecture. A small donation is suggested.

UAHC Regional Biennial

Plans have been announced for the UAHC Regional Biennial, to be held February 27 to March 1 in San Rafael. Congregation Rodef Shalom will host this gathering of Reform Jews from all over Northern California and Nevada. The site is the newly remodeled Clarion Hotel near the Marin Civic Center.

The Program Committee, which includes CSZ members Mike Rankin and Don Albert, has been hard at work preparing a stimulating agenda. Some of the topics to be covered include:

- the role of the changing family
- social action issues and program
- Jewish pluralism
- community outreach

- enriching Shabbat observance and Shabbat study

Members of Congregation Rodef Shalom will open their homes to share Shabbat dinner before we gather in their sanctuary for evening services. On Shabbat morning the attendees can select from three different services and study sessions. A highlight of the weekend is the dinner on Saturday evening at which Rabbi Daniel Syme, Vice President of UAHC, will speak, and the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble will present a musical program.

Set the dates aside and look for registration material, available later in January. If you have any questions, contact the office or see Don or Mike at services.

President's Column

The Value of Memory

By now you must think I have some perverse obsession with the past! It is true that I have written about life in the hippy 60's, that I've worked to create the Past Presidents' Council, and now I'm about to let you know about the Memorial Boards.

Perhaps it's a case of having reached the halfway point in my life that has been causing me lately to reflect on history. But then maybe I'm lucky to consider these early forties to be only halfway. It's shocking to realize just how many of our friends won't make it this far, and how many more certainly don't believe that they are going to make it to their 80's.

As our synagogue approaches its 10th anniversary, we do indeed have our own history, and it's important for us to remember the loved ones we've lost—those taken prematurely, and also those who were blessed with long lives. Religion is made up of many components, one of which is the collective memory of a group of people. As a people we have learned to "never forget" and as a congregation we can now memorialize our families, life partners and friends.

On January 23, we will dedicate the two Memorial Boards that have been purchased through our memorials program; one the gift of Allan Berenstein, the other of Jerry Rosenstein. Each board has room for 33 individual plaques. The first Board will contain the names of the 9 members of our congregation who have died. It will also contain plaques purchased by members in anticipation of this dedication. Through the upcoming months we hope you will consider remembering someone dear to you. Each plaque is available at \$360.

If you have an interest in doing this, please call the synagogue office.

—Irene Ogus

Want to sell a dining room set?
List an apartment rental?
Sell a car?
Place an ad in the classifieds?
For more information, contact
Jay Feinstein, 621-6594.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in December. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family, including:

Sandi Blair & Carol Cohen

Milton Estes & Tom Steel

Gail Friedlander

Glenn Stoller

Sam Tucker

Susan Weinstein, Shelley Adler & their children

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Amsterdam—and Israel Too!

This coming July, the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations will hold its biennial conference in Amsterdam, Holland. Many members of Sha'ar Zahav and Beth Chayim Chadashim (Los Angeles) have been discussing a group tour to coincide with this international gathering.

Set aside Friday, January 30 for an after-*Oneg* program devoted to a presentation on tour arrangements. Michael Grusd, a travel agent and member of BCC has been working with Don Albert and Aaron Cooper to plan this most exciting vacation.

Here are some options which are being finalized:

- one week in Amsterdam
- three weeks—one in Amsterdam and two on an escorted tour of Israel
- one week in Amsterdam with additional time in Europe (unescorted)

A great deal of effort is going into the planning of the Israel trip. It will be a private, specially arranged tour, just for World Congress attendees. The itinerary will include time in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and hopefully several days traveling from a base on a kibbutz in the north.

Mark your calendars now...request your vacation time...and be sure to be with us on January 30 to meet Michael and hear the details. Brochures will be available later in January.

Condolences

The congregation extends our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Forrest Kincaide**, on the loss of his friend Al Larson.

To **Sue Douglass**, on the loss of her aunt, Marion Zimmerman

To **Allyce Kimerling**, on the loss of her brother, Allan Kimerling.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Archetype visual imaging services.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Let My People Go: Soviet Jews Struggle for Freedom

Last November, Benjamin and Tanya Bogomolny arrived in San Francisco from the Soviet Union. He had waited nearly 20 years to leave the Soviet Union; she, over seven years. Their arrival in the U.S. culminated a long struggle by the U.S. Jewish community to obtain permission for the Bogomolnys to leave the Soviet Union.

Yet, despite the Bogomolny's release—and the heralded release last year of Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky—the situation of most Jews who seek to leave the Soviet Union, as well as those who wish to remain in the Soviet Union but to live as Jews, has worsened in the last several years.

An estimated 300,000–400,000 Jews have openly sought to leave the Soviet Union. These include about 15,000 “refuseniks,” Jews whose applications to leave the country for Israel have been rejected, and over 300,000 more who have begun the Kafkaesque process of applying for an exit visa. Those who apply to leave are subject to harassment, dismissal from their jobs, and sometimes arrest, beatings, and imprisonment for “parasitism” (because they are not working) or other trumped-up charges.

Few Soviet Jews have been allowed to emigrate, and chances become slimmer when the Cold War gets frostier. During the Reagan Administration, the number of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate has declined sharply, from over 51,000 in 1979 to less than 850 in the first eleven months of 1986. More Jews would probably seek to emigrate if they were not subject to reprisals and if their chances of success were better.

The Soviet government's harassment of Jews is not limited to those who seek to leave the Soviet Union. Even more threatening is the government's systematic campaign to undermine and degrade Jewish education, culture, and identity. Since 1984, the government has arrested and imprisoned a number of Jews who teach Hebrew or study Torah with other Jews. Anti-semitic propaganda in government-controlled newspapers, radio, and television has reached levels said to be unmatched since Stalin's time. The media speak of a “Jewish underground” involved in weapons possession and drug

abuse. A rumor was even circulating that the nuclear tragedy at Chernobyl was the fault of a negligent Jewish engineer.

In the face of the continuing persecution of our Soviet sisters and brothers, a number of Bay Area and national Jewish organizations, including the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews and the Jewish Community Relations Council, are stepping up efforts to obtain the release of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate, and the ending of harassment of Jews who seek to maintain and transmit their culture. Actions include writing letters to United States government officials and members of Congress, urging them to exert pressure for human rights in their interactions with the Soviet government; rallies and daily vigils at Soviet embassies and consulates across the country; “adopt-a-prisoner” and “adopt-a-family” programs, where congregations accept responsibility to communicate with and work for the release of a Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience or with refusenik families; and assistance to Soviet emigrés in the U.S. who face the difficult task of starting a new life.

What Can You Do? As Jews, we sometimes downplay the importance of aiding our own Jewish sisters and brothers because we are afraid of appearing too “clannish” or of playing into the anti-communist rhetoric of right-wing groups. As the liberal Jewish journal, *Tikkun*, said recently, “Many of us proudly marched as Jews for the elemental rights of Blacks—we have an equal obligation to march for the basic rights of our own people.” If you want to work for the release or assistance of Soviet Jews, there are a number of things you can do:

- Come to CSZ's Social Action Committee and work with us in developing ideas for assisting Soviet Jews. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 8, 7:30 pm at CSZ.

- Participate in CSZ's monthly vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco. The vigil is the second Wednesday of each month, 11:30 am–noon. Contact Richard Inlander for more information.

(Continued on page 5)

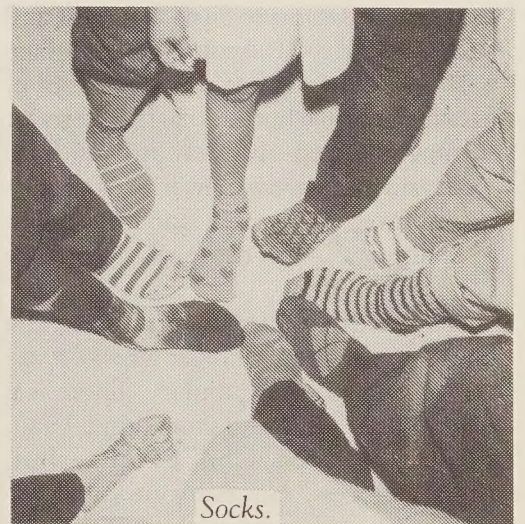
Women's Havurah

Shabbat Dinner

The Women's Havurah January event will be a pre-shabbat dinner on Friday, January 16, at 6 pm in the Oneg Room. Only 30 women can be accommodated, so be sure to get your reservation in early; no reservations can be accepted after Friday, January 9. The food will be vegetarian, and the cost will be \$5 for CSZ members and \$7 for non-members.

The Havurah will also sponsor the Oneg that evening, and women who are willing to bring something should call Betty at 221-2265. If you have questions about either the pre-shabbat dinner or the Oneg, call Betty.

The January event follows two successful events in November and December. An overflow crowd gathered at Irene and Rosalinda's for the Potluck-Havdalah, with a spectacular fireworks display honoring the Bay Bridge birthday substituting for the advertised but nonfunctioning hot tub. Betty Kalis was the grand winner of the crazy socks contest, a difficult decision in light of many creative entries.



Alita Rosenfeld was the grand winner of the baby picture guessing contest at the December event, with the amazing score of 100%. The scientific mind at work, no doubt. Prizes were also awarded to the winning Trivial Pursuits team.

Women's Havurah events are an excellent way for old and new members to get acquainted. Women who haven't attended lately are urged to put future events on their calendars.

All photos in this issue by Amy Blasenheim.

Getting to Know You

Our Congregation has grown tremendously during the past several months. For the first time in our history, we have over 300 members. The Oneg room and our renovated upstairs classroom/meeting spaces are in use almost every night of the week. Our congregational program is expanding in several areas—the Children's Havurah, Women's Havurah, and Bikkur Cholim immediately come to mind. It's an exciting time for the entire membership.

But growth also brings changes and challenges. In the early days of any group, everyone knows everyone else. It is no longer possible to walk in the door at Sha'ar Zahav and greet everyone by name. Our Congregation now hosts, on a weekly basis, the largest regular Friday night service in San Francisco! It is virtually impossible to greet everyone present—as anyone who has tried to get from one side of the Oneg room to the other knows.

Integrating our new and newly active members into our synagogue community is a major challenge. Seasoned members come to synagogue to be with friends and share in the life of the community they are part of. I believe that every member of Sha'ar Zahav—whether original founder or newly joined—is open and ready to meet and get to know new friends and acquaintances. Still, there is an inclination to “hang out” with those we already are comfortable with.

Someone new to Sha'ar Zahav can be made to feel like a stranger when we use our special CSZ vocabulary. There is a Sha'ar Zahav lingo and short-hand: Va'ad, Advance, EC, pc, CSZ, UAHC, shul, “flags,” “process.” Not everyone knows the terms—or understands the special significance we sometimes intend by them. Having our own “language” is part of the fun of belonging to a community, but it can also become a marker which divides those who are “in” from those who are “out.” Over the years, we have also evolved our own distinctive ways of doing things—from how we conduct our services to how we conduct our committee meetings—which have been hallowed by “tradition.” Let's be open to the new ideas and fresh perspectives which new people can bring us.

When new members or prospective members come to Sha'ar Zahav, knowing only one or two people, they are eager to

meet new people and become a part of the congregational community. The congregation, though, can *appear* to be a closed group of old friends who are not willing to make room for new faces. I do not think this is the truth at all. In fact, Sha'ar Zahav does a good job of including and involving new members. Several of our committees are chaired by relatively new members.

Still, all of us need to be sensitive to the challenges and opportunities of growth. Building connections with others takes work—but it is a rewarding labor. I have several specific suggestions about what each of us can do: Longer-time members, you can begin by introducing yourself to the people sitting in the pews near you in the sanctuary. I will promise to stop asking you to do this from the bimah if you promise to greet and welcome those around you on your own! Make a point of chatting with someone you don't know. The Membership Committee works hard at making everyone feel welcomed and acknowledged; we can all share in this important mitzvah.

New(er) members, you can: join a committee; sign up for a class; come to a Havurah event; volunteer at an activity. There are many, many different ways you can become involved in the life of the congregation. The “caring community” of Sha'ar Zahav is made up of many mini-

communities which have formed around specific tasks or committees. This is the best way to meet and get to know other members—and have a good time, too.

Everyone should be aware/beware of our dialect. There is nothing wrong with having a special vocabulary; it is a natural development in any community and can be a source of pride and fun. Nonetheless, it is not only our liturgical language which needs to be “inclusive.”

We pride ourselves on being a caring community. As our community grows in size, let's ensure that our caring grows too.

— Rabbi Yoel Kahn



The CSZ Book Fair, December 5 through 14. Members of the Education Committee are rightly proud of this important event, a first for our congregation.

Share “Coming Out” Stories

Our “coming out” stories span generations, geography and upbringing. They can be amusing and touching. Join us on Saturday, February 21, for an afternoon of laughter, warmth and good feelings as we share stories of those special “coming out” moments.

What a deal! A roomful of people volunteering to listen to *your* favorite stories! Please bring a snack to share so we can all enjoy light refreshments. Look for more details in the February *Forward* and save February 21 for a fun event.

— Cheryl Orvis

Spotlight on...

David Gass

What matzoh balls are to matzoh ball soup, CSZ's volunteers are to us: the essential ingredient. The purpose of the spotlight column is to focus on an individual member who is an example of what being a volunteer is all about.

In 1979, a young man named David Gass attended services at the still young Sha'ar Zahav, not having set foot in a synagogue since his Bar Mitzvah at Farmingdale Jewish Center in Long Island. Back then, CSZ met at Dovre Hall—now the Women's Building.

Why he was there he wasn't really sure. According to David, "it felt like being at a cousin's club meeting (reminiscent of his own large family); there was an instant connection to those people and it was okay to be gay." CSZ felt warm, spirited and caring. This fit in with what David refers to as "his personal journey to connect spiritually."

It came as no surprise to David how quickly he got active. It was a natural response from someone who describes himself as a "family type person who likes to get involved, to nurture and do good for other people."

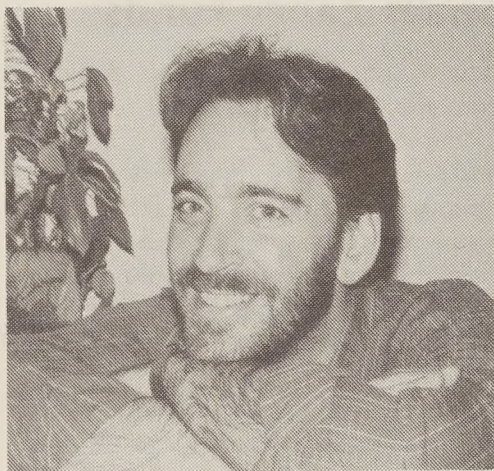
David's list of involvements at Sha'ar Zahav include the Oneg, Membership, Bylaws and Social Action Committees as well as the first Ritual Committee, which designed our first *Hagadah*. At various times he's also been a key figure at High Holiday onegs, the community Seder and, most recently, co-coordinated this year's High Holiday services.

In his most famous role, he helped write and direct last year's Purim play, *Poly-esther*, and carried away the honors for Best Supporting Actress (you all remember Francine, don't you?).

Since his early days with the congregation, David has been a strong women's ad-

vocate as well, having received some major feminist training back in 1974 from a woman co-worker when he was night manager at an up-and-coming little bakery known as Just Desserts.

CSZ makes good use of David's many skills, which range from administrative assistant to baker. An excellent cook, David is a part of the group of people who make up the Cookbook Project.



The personal fulfillment he receives doesn't stop at his volunteer role, however. David recalled a few Sha'ar Zahav experiences which will always be special to him: helping carry the Torahs into the new building, a baby naming, being met by the rabbi at the hospital when David's lover was in the emergency room, and calling another member for emotional support during a difficult time.

Operating at his best in high gear, David is also aware of his limitations, preferring to go on to new things in order to prevent burnout. This freedom to choose which project to work on is what he really enjoys. Upcoming projects? Getting the brotherhood back together again,

or a favorite fantasy: "putting on a really great Monte Carlo Night."

So watch the *Forward* for news of this CSZ volunteer's next event. You might even want to help.

—Amy Blasenheim

Sanctuary Funds for Refugees

The congregation has collected over \$900 as part of our efforts to assist refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala. The Social Action Committee has turned this money over to the Sanctuary Covenant, which will use it for bail for refugees who have been incarcerated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, enabling these refugees to pursue legal remedies for asylum. Our long-range goal, adopted last May in the Congregation's Covenant of Sanctuary, is to raise approximately \$3,000 toward bail for refugees fleeing oppression and persecution in their home countries.

—Social Action Committee

Soviet Jewry

(Continued from page 3)

• Contact the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews (585-1400), the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties (957-8860) for information on projects for Soviet refuseniks or emigreés.

Note: The *Jewish Women's Newsletter's* January issue is devoted to "Soviet Jewish Women: Refusenik and Emigré Women in Russia and the U.S."

—Ami Zusman, Chair

Our advertisers support
the *Forward*.
Please tell them where
you saw their ads.

MEMBERSHIP
Check it out.
Besides the benefits, it feels good
to be part of Sha'ar Zahav.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Stephen Walter, in honor of Cheryl Orvis and Walt Leiss' recoveries
Bob Goldstein, in memory of Jim Coronado
Andrew Richter, in memory of Steven Richter
Mark Mendelow, in memory of Ruth Wishner
Marion Trentman & Betty Kalis, in memory of Ruth Wishner
Allan Berenstein & Ed Piretti, in memory of Ruth Wishner
Sen Talley, in honor of Steve Greenberg's birthday and in memory of Ruth Wishner
Gordon Osser, in honor of Social Programs' Cafe Latke Grande
David Shaber, in memory of his sister, Ruth Wishner
Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Ruth Wishner
Skipper, in honor of Robin (Janet Guthrie) Leonard
Rob Tat, in memory of Ruth Wishner
Richard Inlander, Susan Horst & Fred Berg, in appreciation of Joyce B. Ladar and in honor of her birthday
Walt Leiss

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Phil Charney
Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in honor of the speedy recovery of Allan Berenstein's mother
Steve Greenberg, in honor of the congregation for putting on such lovely High Holiday services; in honor of Irene Ogus; in memory of David Kotch; thank you to Rabbi Kahn
Walt Leiss
David Shaber, in memory of Ruth Wishner

Torah Fund

Sherie Koshover, with appreciation to Rabbi Kahn and those members of the congregation for their special efforts and contribution towards High Holidays services and festivities
Walt Leiss

Library Fund

Jonathan Funk, in memory of Ruth Wishner

AIDS Fund

Ron Lewis
United Way
Rabbi Bruce Kadden, in appreciation of Mike Rankin's talk
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Tom Steinruck
Jim Pandolfi

Sha'ar Zahav Funds

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to Ethiopian Jewry, Soviet Jewry, and San Francisco Jewish Family and Children's Services.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and support of AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: supports *tzedakah* and special needs in the congregation and the community.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in the *Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

It's Telethon Time

On February 22, CSZ will once again participate in Super Sunday—the largest one-day telethon in our community—raising funds for the many organizations associated with the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma counties. CSZ traditionally provides many volunteers to make telephone calls to pitch for the Fund and to help keep records of calls at the annual event at the Fairmont Hotel. You needn't have any special phone-pitching abilities for there are many different tasks to volunteer for during the day.

As the years go by, CSZ becomes more and more aware of the importance of the JCF which includes Jewish Social Services, Hebrew Free Loan, Jewish Family and Children's Services, and the Jewish Home for the Aged. And of course, donors to the JCF receive a subscription to the *Jewish Bulletin*—the weekly lifeline to Jewish events and issues relevant to Jews in the Bay Area, nation and world. CSZ has been prominently featured many times in the *Bulletin*.

Here's your chance to help the Jewish Community. Sign-up sheets and time-slots will be available soon in the Oneg Room. If you want to avoid the rush, call David Stein (431-7541) and register now.

Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Schwartz & Philip Gomez
- 20 Nancy Snow & Dana Vinicoff
- 28 Joel Wasser & Robin Barron

Naches

Mike Rankin was recently elected president of the Jewish Physicians Organization of the Jewish Community Federation. The Federation supports a number of health, social service, and cultural programs in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

Congratulations to Tiela Chalmers and Debbie Lieberman, who just passed the California Bar Exam. Welcome to the ranks of the synagogue attorneys!

If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

JANUARY

כסלו-טבת-שבט

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				30 Kislev 1	1 Tevet 2	2 3
				7th Chanukah Light Rosh Chodesh I	8th Chanukah Light Rosh Chodesh II Services 8:15pm	8th Day of Chanukah
3 4	4 5	5 6	6 7	7 8	8 9	9 10
	Education Comm. 7:30pm	Newsletter Comm. 130E Landers, 7pm		Social Action Comm. 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	
10 11	11 12	12 13	13 14	14 15	15 16	16 17
Rosenbaum Lecture: European Anti- Semitism, 4pm	Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline		Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm	Women's Havurah Dinner, 6:30pm Services, 8:15pm	
17 18	18 19	19 20	20 21	21 22	22 23	23 24
	Drama Havurah 424 Central, 7pm				Services, 8:15pm Memorial Board Dedication	
24 25	25 26	26 27	27 28	28 29	29 30	1 Shevat 31
New Members Toast & Tea, 3pm				Newsletter Mailing 11 Grandview Terr. 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm Oneg Program, Amsterdam Tour	Services, 10:30am Rosh Chodesh

Ritual Calendar

Friday, January 2

Parshah: Miketz, Gen. 41:1-44:17;
Num. 7:54-8:4
Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-50
Daniel Chesir

Friday, January 9

Parshah: Va-Yigash, Gen. 44:18-47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28
Steve Greenberg & Dana Vinicoff
Torah Service

Friday, January 16

Parshah: Va-Yehi, Gen. 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1-12
Mike Rankin

Friday, January 23

Parshah: Shemot, Ex. 1:1-6:1
Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23
Members of Fall Semester Liturgy Class

Friday, January 30

Parshah: Va-Era, Ex. 6:2-9:35; Num. 28:9-15
Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Bill Schlichter

Saturday, January 31

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Ritual Committee

February Preview

Friday, February 6

Parshah: Bo, Ex. 10:1-13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28
Tiela Chalmers

Kosher Hams?

If you're a frustrated (or closet) actor, help set directions and goals for a new CSZ "Drama Havurah." Set for Monday night, January 19 from 7:00-9:00 at the home of those infamous Purim Players L. Gold and F. Gass, 424 Central, we will develop our format, and initiate our activities program with a short participatory reading. Everyone is welcome. Call 929-9524 or 567-7654 to reserve a space.

Birthdays

6 Nathan Robinson
8 Garry Koenigsberg
12 Tiela Chalmers
19 Mike Rankin
19 Yolande Schneeman
20 Pam Singer
21 Johanna Johnson
21 Stephen Rosenbaum
25 Dana Lear
25 Lisa Daniel
25 Neil Hart
27 Elliott Klein
30 Ruth
30 Aaron Cooper
30 Jobe Lawson

High Holiday Contributions, Part II

In addition to the 50 contributors reported in the December *Forward*, we are pleased to add the following names to the list of supporters who responded to our appeals at High Holy Days. Thank you all.

Mark Abrahams	Leonie Darwin	Sarah Hannaford	Bertha Markowitz	Dara Schur
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Lorelei Cotovsky	Eleanor Haas	Mall-Gianattassio	& Joyce Amburgey	F. Zuckerman
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Remember

to keep us up to date.
 If you've moved, changed
 your name, have a new
 phone number, or wish to
 add a listing to our
 yahrzeit or anniversary
 records, please call or
 write the synagogue
 office.

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met on Monday, December 8. Rabbi Kahn's *D'var Torah* dealt with the name of the week's Torah portion, the week's Torah "And he came out..." Rabbi Kahn suggested that one of the ways to read the text is to understand it according to our inherited Gay/Lesbian and Jewish traditions, with which we are doubly blessed.

Irene asked Social Program chair Shirley Liberman to report on the Chanukah party at Sherith Israel on December 27. Irene thanked Vice President Richard Inlander for preparing the President's report, and was pleased to add that the upstairs bathroom has been painted and other work completed, thanks to the volunteer efforts of Alex Ingersoll with the help of David Stein and Ralph Frischman.

The Va'ad approved a motion to donate \$180 to the Israeli AIDS Task Force, to help meet the needs of AIDS patients in Israel.

Rabbi Kahn pointed out that his available evening hours are very few, and asked that those wishing to see him schedule appointments at other times whenever possible. He described a letter that all Reform rabbis in the UAHC were recently sent by Rabbi Alexander Schindler informing them about AIDS programs, and reported on the success of the Chanukah program cosponsored by the Children's Havurah and the Education Committee.

Jacqueline Letalien reported that she soon will be working more hours at the synagogue office.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented six membership applications which were unanimously accepted. Robin said that in 1986, 79 members joined, as opposed to 52 in 1985. Irene thanked the Membership Committee and the Dues Education Subcommittee for a fabulous job.

The Va'ad considered and approved an amended oneg sponsorship policy. Onegs can now be sponsored for \$80 by an individual or group, or partially sponsored (shared with another party or the synagogue) for \$50.

Irene thanked Recorder Ben Schalit for his accurate and timely Va'ad minutes and reports, and received the honor of affixing a mezuzah to the Oneg Room doorway.

Finance Committee chair Don Albert announced that committee chairs should begin budget planning for the 1987/88

Preparing for Chanukah



The CSZ Dreidl Committee delivers an enthusiastic report (at the Children's Book Fair and Latke Party, December 7).



Waiting for latkes. (Not by Samuel Beckett).

year. He described the concept of Building Fund assessments, by which all members would contribute to the viability and longevity of the synagogue building. He also described plans for a Building Fund-raising Campaign to reach members who haven't yet contributed to the building, which were approved by the Va'ad.

UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin reported that he is participating on the Program Committee for the International UAHC Biennial, which will be held in Chicago next year. Mike noted the Union's passage of the resolution proposed by the UAHC Committee on AIDS, endorsing increased distribution of information about AIDS prevention. The committee has recently received a donation of \$10,000 for

dissemination of information to UAHC congregations. The Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble will provide entertainment at the upcoming UAHC Regional Biennial in San Rafael, and CSZ members are encouraged to attend.

Irene reported on the recent meeting of the Cookbook Project, and told the Va'ad that the title of the cookbook will be *Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking*. Irene remarked on the amount of work that has gone into the Cookbook Project, and what an accomplishment this work will be.

At the end of the meeting, those present sang *Oseh Shalom*, after which the Va'ad met in a brief executive session.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

I decided to give a Tupperware party for the homeless last Saturday afternoon, and two of my friends said they couldn't come, because it was Shabbat. Can you imagine? After all, the homeless need our help. Could you write a column explaining that Shabbat is the very best time for mitzvot, and people shouldn't let it get in the way of doing good deeds?

Determined on Douglass

Dear Determined,

Well, yes, Aunte Yente could maybe write such a column. But then she wouldn't agree with it, and she would have to get into an argument with herself, and then she would have to listen to herself go on, and on. You shouldn't know from it. So instead she will write a column about why the Tupperware party shouldn't have been on Shabbos. But then again, neither Aunt Yente nor her readers do *takke* so many mitzvas that she wants to discourage any. So let her say *mazel tov* that you help the homeless! But next time, maybe a nice Sunday brunch?

You see, *kinderlach*, Shabbos is not a generic holiday. Aunt Yente isn't talking about whether it comes in a yellow and black plastic wrapper; what you cover the challah with is your own business. She means instead that Shabbos, although it comes every week, is still the most precious holiday we have, more important than all our other holidays, even Rosh Hashonoh. (Alright, so not Yom Kippur. Call your poor Aunt Yente a liar over one holiday and see if it makes you happy.) It is not meant as a day to be generally Jewish, but instead is a very specific holiday, celebrating something special in a special way.

We say every Shabbos at kiddush that it is "zikhrone l'maasei b'reishis"—a remembrance of the work of creation. The Torah says that God created the world in six days, saw that everything was very nice, and then took a seventh day, to

rest and enjoy. It is not written that God made boring things in six days and good ones on the seventh; six days were enough not just for Velveeta, but for brie also, for BMW's as well as Yugos, for wholesale as well as retail. All the wonderful things, all the works of mercy and justice that uphold the worlds, were made in six days. On Shabbos *all* the work stopped, and there was only rest and enjoyment.

And our contract (Almagamated Jews, Local No. 1) is *takke* the same working conditions. The Talmud emphasizes that when we were commanded to build a movable Temple for God in the desert (this was before Winnebago's), Moses also repeated the law against working on Shabbos. Even the building of the house of God must stop on Shabbos, because the commandment to rest on the seventh day is simply more important than our other responsibilities. (Of course, some mitzvas can't be put off, like visiting someone who is sick, or finding a place for someone to stay on Friday night. These take precedence even over Shabbos. Aunt Yente is talking only of tasks where one day can substitute for another, like having a fundraising party, or beginning a new diet.)

So Shabbos isn't the day to get busy doing good things; for this we have the six days. Having friends stop by Aunt Yente thinks is very nice, if you enjoy it too and are not just overheating the food processor. But inviting them for a purpose, forgetting things accomplished—even good things—that you could get accomplished on another day, is not right for Shabbos, and Aunt Yente will not come (no matter how badly she needs a new celery crisp).

But Aunt Yente, you say, these are the traditional laws about Shabbos. Aren't you now going to tell us that the law needs to be updated, to fit with our lives, and that for us it should be a little different? Isn't it more important we should do our good deeds than we should worry what day we do them?

No. Are things today maybe so calm and settled that a day of peace and non-action we don't need? Feh. And with two days each week most of us don't work, what more do we need to celebrate Shabbos than to shuffle the appointment book a little? Let's face it, *kinderlach*: our lives are not so easy that we don't need Shabbos, and not so hard that we can't make the time to observe it properly.

So no excuses, *kinderlach*. When Shabbos comes around, Aunt Yente wants you to get out there and *do nothing*! Except talk, and love, and study, and read, and think, and walk, and pray, and wonder, and laugh, and (she almost forgot) maybe eat a little bit. Would you be surprised to learn that it's a mitzvah to feast on Shabbos? And that the devout eat a special, extra meal late Saturday afternoon? Would it surprise you that Aunt Yente is especially careful to observe these mitzvahs? She didn't think so.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker?

Or possibly a therapist, accountant, painter or retailer?

If you wish to increase your business, consider placing an ad in *The Forward*.

For details, contact Jay Feinstein, 621-6594.

Please,

don't forget our brothers in need.
Keep filling the shul's collection
baskets with non-perishable food
and other household items for
the SF AIDS Foundation's
residence program

AIDS Support Project

Artists, poets and writers, composers, musicians, and performers who want to express solidarity during the AIDS epidemic, and help produce arts events to raise funds for AIDS organizations, should check out Artists for Community Life (ACL). Last June, ACL presented *Art & Well-Being*, an exhibit of works by 19 artists expressing feelings about AIDS.

ACL is currently planning a poetry reading (Sunday, February 8, at the Intersection), and other events, to fund Art Workshops, creative and enjoyable afternoon programs for people with AIDS. ACL also provides a forum for gay and lesbian artists of various disciplines to socialize and collaborate. For further information, contact Alan Goodman at 864-2298.

Yahrzeits

- 1 Glenn Childcress, brother of Joyce Amburgey
- 3 Lonnie Richards, friend of Steven Cronenwalt
- 5 Joseph Glassberg, uncle of David Glassberg
- 7 (6 Tevet) Bayla Schneidman, sister of Daniel Chesir
- 11 Bill Chalmers, father of Tiela Chalmers
- 12 (11 Tevet) Frema Weinstein, mother of Eli Weinstein
- 13 Morris Gabay, father of Ed Gabay
- 13 Marion Howes, grandmother of Marion Trentman
- 14 Ben Blachman, father of Blanche Blachman
- 14 Sam Shaber, brother of David Shaber
- 15 Rose Bud Macks, grandmother of Judy Macks
- 17 (16 Tevet) Seymour Newman, uncle of Laurie Radovsky
- 17 Jordan Flyer, friend of Pam Singer
- 17 Len Krupp, friend of Mike Rankin
- 17 Iris Medina del Moral, step-mother of Rosalinda del Moral
- 19 (18 Tevet) Sophie Singer, grandmother of Laurie Davis
- 20 Ralph Douglass, father of Sue Douglass
- 20 Anna Kimerling, grandmother of Allyce Kimerling
- 20 Sophie Sagorsky, grandmother of Marc Lipschutz
- 21 (20 Tevet) Jack Heller, father of Hal Heller
- 24 Lea Katz, aunt of David Glassberg
- 25 (24 Tevet) Avrum Ya'kov Berenstein, grandfather of Allan Berenstein
- 25 Dan Druid, friend of Alita Rosenfeld
- 25 Lev Liberman, father of Gershon Lieberman
- 28 Estelle Lieberman, mother of Deborah Lieberman
- 28 Michael J. McCormick, Sr., father of Michael J. McCormick
- 28 John Selvy, friend of Susan Unger
- 31 Phillip Kalis, father of Betty Kalis
- 31 Temple Morris Radovsky, mother of Laurie Radovsky

Bikkur Cholim

Helping Hands

The Bikkur Cholim Committee wants to thank those members who have returned their interest inventories; with over fifty members responding to our request for help, God has many helping hands, indeed. Thankfully, our own membership needs have not been great these past few months, and so we've not called on most of you yet to put your talent to work (especially those of you who enclosed notes describing your specialties of combination matzoh ball soup and tassel dancing).

Because of the great success of our High Holiday and Chanukah visits to the elderly infirm—and because of the many of you willing to help with these visits—we are considering expanding this much needed program to regularly scheduled monthly visits. This will require participation, though. (So, nu? Where *were* some of you on the day of our Chanukah visit? With a salsa latke and Manischewitz sangria hangover?)

The ability our dedicated volunteers have given us to deal with our members' longer-term crises has also enabled us to take care of short-term emergencies, as well. (Shopping for someone down with the flu, for example.)

Another of our commitments is our support of the Open Hands project, an extraordinarily important resource which prepares quality hot meals for AIDS patients. Dedicated individuals, many of them our friends, do the shopping and cooking; distribution help, though, is badly needed. Just one hour a week spent delivering hot meals at dinner time can be a special mitzvah. Call Ruth at 771-9808 and tell her you are from Sha'ar Zahav and are able to help.

So no one who returned a questionnaire should feel forgotten; just knowing that people are out there and ready enables us to plan and offer and reach out to those in need. And, just as those we help need us, so too, do we need you: your talent and commitment make it come together. Please let the committee know how you can help.

SPONSOR AN ONEG!

It's a great way to
celebrate a special occasion.

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Calendar for 5747

February 1987

- 3 Semester starts
- 15 Women's Havurah Folk Dancing
- 21 "Coming Out" Party
- 27 (through March 1st) Regional UAHC Conference

March 1987

- 14 Erev Purim Service
- 21 Women's Havurah Video Night

April 1987

- 12 Women's Havurah Magnes Museum Docent Tour
- 13 Erev Pesach (1st Seder)
- 14 Community Seder (2nd Night)
- 26 Yom Hashoah Service

May 1987

- Congregational Meeting/Elections
- 15-17 Women's Conference
- 17 Lag B'Omer Service

June 1987

- Parade
- Installation of Officers
- 2 Erev Shavuot Service & Potluck
- 21 Women's Havurah Solstice Pool Party

July 1987

- Leadership Advance

August 1987

- 4 Tisha B'av

September 1987

- 23 Erev Rosh Hashanah (10/2-Kol Nidre)

Office Notes

On January 5, the office hours will change to 8am–2:30pm, Monday through Friday. The building access code will change in January also. Please call the office to make arrangements for access.

The upstairs bathroom has been painted! This ends renovation of the upstairs meeting and office space. Thank you to Alex for his decorative handiwork. Also thank you to David Gellman for putting safety strips on the edges of the stairs.

We have T-shirts and sweatshirts for sale. These are available for purchase from the office or by mail. (If by mail, allow 2–4 weeks for delivery.)

—Jacqueline Letalien

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
Don Albert, ex officio

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. — check calendar for each month.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Sibling Notes

Sacramento: Ahavat Tzion, the capital city's lesbian and gay Jewish group, will be celebrating its first anniversary at its regular Shabbat services on Friday, January 9. The group meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street, downtown. For information, contact Brian Polejes at (916) 443-1765.

Miami: Several members of Metropolitan Community Synagogue took part in the Southeastern Biennial Convention of UAHC held recently in Tampa. President Michael Greenspan participated in a well-attended panel discussion on AIDS.

Classified Ad

HOUSE FOR SALE (This time I mean it): Sunny, renovated 2 br. house in quiet Oakland location near Mills College. Beautiful 30's detail, lrg. kitchen. \$83,000 (About \$600/month!) Garry 635-6249.

News of Our Rabbi

In addition to his many tasks within the synagogue, Rabbi Kahn is also active in the larger community. In recent months, he participated in the meetings of: UAHC Committee on AIDS, the San Francisco Jewish Emergency Assistance Network, Board of Directors of the American Jewish Congress, Steering Committee for an upcoming Conference on AIDS and Pastoral Care, CCAR Committee on Homosexuality and the Executive Board of the National Jewish AIDS Project.

He has been published in or interviewed by: *The Advocate*, *The Village Voice*, *Journal of Reform Judaism*, *Reform Judaism*, *World Congress Digest* and the Temple Beth El (Richmond) newsletter. Rabbi Kahn worked with counselors-in-training at Camp Swig and led Shabbat services for the California Men's Gathering. He also recently spoke on a panel on Judaism and Sexuality at Temple Beth Am in Palo Alto.

Oneg Sponsors

During November, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 7 Harvey Bartnof, Allan Berenstein, Aaron Cooper, Jon Funk, Alex Ingersoll, Bruce Katz, Eric Keitel, Kipp Leyser, Cheryl Orvis, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky, David Stein, Catherine Wisniewski and Ami Zusman, in honor of Ron Lezell
- 19 Michael Bettinger, in honor of his nephew Ian Bettinger's bar mitzvah

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

WINTER 1987 EDUCATION NIGHT AT SHA'AR ZAHAV

February 3 through April 7, 1987

Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew

This class is intended for those who have no previous knowledge of Hebrew and for those who learned to read Hebrew many years ago but would like to start again. The class will concentrate on basic reading skills. The text for the class will be *Teach Yourself to Read Hebrew*, written especially for adults. Class time will be devoted to reading practice and students can expect some homework. At the end of the term, students will be able to read any passage in the prayerbook. Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

A Jewish Look at the Five Books

This class continues our popular study in English, of "The Five Books" -- the Torah. The class will study the Book of Numbers. Topics for discussion will include: the boundaries of authority, revolution, the meaning of miracles, crime, and punishment. We will carefully examine the Biblical text in the light of what ancient and modern commentators have taught about it. Each weekly session will focus on a particular topic or theme suggested in the Torah's text. New participants are invited to join those continuing our lively and stimulating discussions. Tuesdays, 8:45 - 9:45 p.m. Instructor: Rabbi Yoel Kahn.

Living Jewishly: Facts and Feelings

This class will examine through lecture and discussion the elements that go into living a Jewish life: Shabbat, Jewish values, holiday celebrations, life cycle events, and more. The first class session will be on February 4. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Instructor: Leslie Bergson

General Information: Classes will meet at the synagogue. There is a registration fee of \$5 per semester. Scholarships are available through arrangement with Rabbi Kahn. Advance registration is required by January 30. Please return the form below with payment to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114.

	Members	Non-Members
Class 1: Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew	___ \$10.	___ \$20.
Class 2: A Jewish Look at the Five Books	___ \$10.	___ \$20.
Class 3: Living Jewishly: Facts and Feelings	___ \$20.	___ \$30.
Registration Fee:	___ \$5.	___ \$5.
Total:	___	___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

